

CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Jacob LaRue presided and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioners Present: Mayor LaRue and Commissioners Kevin Berthot, Phillip Chaney, and Tim Fairchild.

Staff Present: Todd Newman, City Manager; Ryan Follmer, Assistant City Manager; Tina Bailey, City Clerk; David Brake, City Attorney; Fire Chief, Jeff Mitchell; and Cory Kepley, Chief Finance Officer.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Commissioner Kevin Berthot.

AGENDA

The Agenda was approved on motion by Commissioner Fairchild, seconded by Commissioner Berthot. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda is used to approve non-controversial or routine matters by a single motion and vote. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- Minutes – City Commission – September 11, 2023
- Warrant Register dated September 13, 2023
- Warrant Register dated September 20, 2023
- Review Various Board and Committee Minutes and Reports
- Request to Hold Annual Veterans Day Parade – November 11, 2023
- Request to Temporarily Block Certain Streets – Neosho County Health Department Drive-Thru Flu Shot Clinic

Motion made by Commissioner Berthot, seconded by Commissioner Fairchild, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patti Sandborn with Southeast Kansas Inc. invited the City Commission to attend an upcoming event sponsored by Southeast Kansas Inc. related to housing. She distributed a tentative itinerary.

Jeana Lawrence, Chanute Public Library Executive Director commented on the new lease agreement between the City of Chanute and the Chanute Public Library.

Garrett Sharp, The Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum Board Vice-President commented on the new lease agreement between the City of Chanute and the Museum. He also commented on renewal of a one quarter of one percent city-wide retailer's sales tax.

Ruthann Boatwright, Interim Chanute Main Street Executive Director commented on upcoming events, specifically Artist Alley. She thanked the City for their support of this annual event.

LeRoy Chard, 1125 North Santa Fe commented on the Depot and support of the Library and Museum.

Jane Brophy, Chanute Chamber of Commerce and Office of Tourism Executive Director provided an update on upcoming 150th Celebration events.

Linda Tiegreen, Chanute Public Library Board Member commented on the library and potential tax credit funding options.

Commissioner Fairchild suggested community support for a fundraising event in support of funding the HVAC for the Depot building.

Commissioner Chaney suggested moving forward with discussions of items needed to repair the HVAC.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Todd Newman gave his report on City activities and operations. Items reported on included a report of maintenance items completed & needed by City staff in preparation of the annual Artist Alley weekend events. He also provided an update on the traffic signals for the 21st & Plummer Project.

General discussion was made. Comments were made by City Manager Newman.

NEW BUSINESS

FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACTS - 2024

In 2003, the City Commission approved a process to increase the Township fire service fees. In order to not severely affect the townships, the cost has been gradually increased to cover expenses of providing that service. In 2018, the City Commission approved a 2.5% increase and we have asked for a 2.5% increase each year after. A spreadsheet was included for review, proposing a 2.5% increase.

General discussion was led by Fire Chief Jeff Mitchell.

Motion made by Commissioner Berthot, seconded by Commissioner Fairchild, to approve the 2024 Fire Protection Contract Price reflecting a 2.5% increase for Tioga, Big Creek, and Canville Townships. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM APPLICATION – ASH REAL ESTATE, LLC

ASH Real Estate, LLC has submitted an application under the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. It has been verified that the property listed under the scope of the application, 1601 West 11th, parcel identification number 067-049-30-0-10-13-002.00-0 is within the scope of the city limits of Chanute. The application has been submitted and reviewed by the Chanute Community Services Department, Chanute Regional Development Authority, the Neosho County Appraisers office, and the Neosho County Treasurer’s office.

The application is now being submitted to the City Commission for consideration and approval. The application will be void one year from the date of the application being approved unless the construction is finished before then. The applicant is to notify the County Appraiser of the commencement of construction within ten (10) days after starting the project.

General discussion was made.

Motion made by Commissioner Fairchild, seconded by Commissioner Berthot, to approve the Neighborhood Revitalization Application – ASH Real Estate, LLC – 1601 West 11th. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE RFP

City staff is requesting to contract out cemetery maintenance for Memorial Park and Elmwood cemeteries. Workforce shortages for seasonal help has made maintaining the cemeteries a struggle over the past few years. The City has had to rely on younger kids which has resulted in fewer months of employment compared to previous years. Also, the cemeteries have grown to full capacity which has made the weed eating more time consuming and less effective over the seasonal shortages.

General discussion was made. Comments were made by City Manager Todd Newman and City Attorney David Brake.

Commission consensus was for the City Manager to move forward with the Cemetery Maintenance Request for Proposals and for this item to be placed on a future Agenda for further review and approval.

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 803 SOUTH CENTRAL

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 209 SOUTH LAFAYETTE

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 15 SOUTH MALCOLM

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 617 NORTH GRANT

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 218 SOUTH KANSAS

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 217 WEST 6TH

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 208 WEST 5TH

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 722 SOUTH GRANT

Motion made by Commissioner Fairchild, seconded by Commissioner Berthot, to adopt resolution declaring that the above properties are in violation of Chanute Municipal Codes and authorizing abatement of certain nuisances as presented. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

The Resolutions were assigned: No. 2023-105, No. 2023-106, No. 2023-107, No. 2023-108, No. 2023-109, No. 2023-110, No. 2023-111, and No. 2023-112.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Chaney suggested that the Depot Management Committee meet and discuss the HVAC and other big dollar maintenance items.

General discussion was made related to the existence of the Depot Management Committee. Comments were made by City Manager Todd Newman, City Attorney David Brake, Safari Museum Board Vice-President Garrett Sharp, and Library board member Linda Tiegreen.

City Manager Newman reported that City staff will prepare a CIP to identify items specially needed for the Depot building.

Commissioner Chaney commented on his love for the Chanute community and his sadness of things said over the past couple of weeks. He also commented on the need for forgiveness by man & God.

Commissioner Berthot commented on the Depot Agreement and its intent and his support of it.

Commissioner Fairchild encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Artist Alley events and to visit the Chanute Community Foundation booth. He reported that foundation is raising funds in support of new playground equipment located at Santa Fe Park.

Mayor LaRue commented on the Depot Management Committee and thanked them for their past support of the Depot building. He commented that there is no longer a need/requirement for this committee under the new tenant/landlord agreements.

General discussion was made.

Mayor LaRue thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Commissioner Fairchild, seconded by Mayor LaRue, to adjourn. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Tina L Bailey, CMC
City Clerk